

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Department of Nutrition Sciences

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January 11, 2000

Jane Henney, MD
FDA Commissioner
FDA Dockets Management Grant (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 94P-0036, Food Labeling: Trans Fatty Acids in Nutrition Labeling,
Nutrient Content Claims, and Health Claims; Proposed Rule

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed labeling requirements for trans-fatty acids. I believe that the requirement to add the trans fat content to that of saturated fat, with the crucial requirement of the asterisk referring consumers to a footnote for the trans content, represents an important step forward in providing information to consumers. The FDA has provided a thoughtful review of alternative strategies for improving the labeling for trans fat, and in my view, has devised the optimal solution which provides a good balance between scientific accuracy and ease of understanding. In particular, I regard the asterisk next to the saturated fat heading as the simplest and best way to identify food products that are important sources of trans fat. This distinction is essential for scientific accuracy and is critical for consumers because trans fat has adverse metabolic effects not shared by saturated fat.

The new labeling regulations for trans have the potential for a substantial public health impact which will require little effort on the part of consumers. I believe that the public health would be improved if intake of trans fat could be reduced. The first step toward this goal is to provide consumers the information that they need. I support the FDA's efforts in this regard.

Respectfully yours,



Roland Weinsier, M.D., Dr.P.H.
C.E. Butterworth, Jr., Professor

94P-0036

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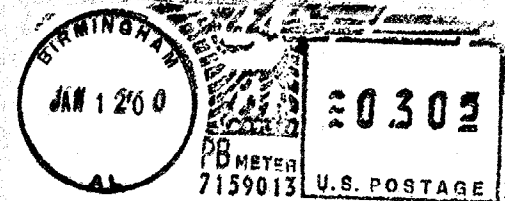
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